

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 04849 301622Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /188 W

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R 301534Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2967

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 4849

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EG, OTRA, ELAB

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN SOCIALIST DELEGATION VISITS AUSTRIA

1. UPON INVITATION OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY EXTENDED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT AS HEAD OF SOCIALSIT INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION, AN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION (ASU) DELEGATION VISITED AUSTRIA FROM MAY 23 TO 26.

2. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS ASU GENERAL SECRETARY GHANEM EXPLAINED HIS DELEGATION'S VISIT SHOULD BE VIEWED IN BROADER POLITICAL CONTEXT SIGNIFYING A MAJOR SHIFT IN EGYPTIAN FOREIGN POLICY FROM DEPENDENCE UPON SOVIET UNION WHICH "LED US INTO DEAD END ALLEY" TO RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND EXPANSION OF WESTERN CONTACTS, PARTICULARLY WITH WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. OUR SOURCE FURTHER TOLD US THAT CONTACT WITH AUSTRIAN LEADERSHIP WAS FELT BY ASU TO BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF KREISKY'S SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN PEACE AND HIS INFLUENCE AMONG OTHER WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS. FOLLOWING UP THIS INITIAL CONTACT THE ASU DELEGATION

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 04849 301622Z

AND ITS AUSTRIAN HOSTS AGREED TO INITIATE EXCHANGE VISITS OF

PARTY OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF COOPERATIVES AND YOUTH GROUPS.
EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE HIGH LEVEL TRADE UNION LEADERS
IN EXCHANGE PROJECT WAS PUT IN ABEYANCE BECAUSE OF POTENT-
IALLY ADVERSE REACTION OF HISTADRUT AND OTHER ICFTU AFFILIATES,
ALTHOUGH AUSTRIANS WILL CONSIDER LABOR EXCHANGES ON NON-
POLITICAL, I.E., TECHNICIAN LEVEL.

3. AUSTRIAN HOSTS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY ASU DELEGATION'S
EMPHATIC OPPOSITION TO POSSIBILITY OF RESETTLING PALESTINIANS
IN SINAI REGION AND BY ASU DESPOSING OF THIS ISSUE WITH REMARK
THAT GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK WOULD FULLY MEET RESETTLEMENT
REQUIREMENTS. HUMES

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